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PROGRAM Jack Paar Show

STATION WNBC-TV

DATE May 14, 1965 10:00 P.M.

CITY New York, N.Y.

Jack Paar interviewed Senator Everett Dirksen, and the following was heard, in part:

PAAR: "You are privy to a great many secrets of this country that we may never know. I'm not asking about that. But what I'm concerned about is the CIA and the things that we've seen lately and heard lately. I'm concerned about another government operating that's not elected. Does that concern you that there are men who are doing things that are -- not within the framework of government as we know it?"

DIRKSEN: "It would concern me only if you had a person directing CIA who either didn't know his business or wasn't patriotic and who didn't encompass the real meaning of a huge espionage operation. We've been rather fortunate in that respect. Men like General 'Beetle' Smith. Men like John R. McCone of California. I thought Mr. McCone was a splendid operator. And now we have Admiral Raborn, and really a great man in his own right."

PAAR: "And you can tell us tonight that in your experience and wisdom and conscience that you are not alarmed or concerned or worried that there might be something operating that might be foreign to our democratic system?"

DIRSEN: "Not a bit. You have to have an espionage operation in this day and age. Every country has to. The Soviet Union'll have the NVD, the Cheka (?). The French have the Surite (?). The British have B4. And we had OSS and a variety of other agencies before. Now they're all consolidated pretty well in the Central Intelligence Agency. You have to have it. And you have to have a secret organization, because if it isn't tight then it's as good as no organization at all."

PAAR: "Well would you say that it never acts without the knowledge of the President?"